

## Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CU-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /048 W

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R 061051Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1795

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

S E C R E T BANGKOK 22252

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: THANOM'S REQUEST TO RETURN

1. KON THAPPHARANGSI, NEPHEW OF (ADN SECRETARY TO) MINISTER OF INDUSTRY CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN, CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THE ACCURACY OF NEWS REPORTS THAT A REQUEST BY FIELD MARSHAL THANOM KITTIKACHON TO RETURN FROM EXILE IN SINGAPORE TO ENTER THE MONKHOOD WAS ON THE AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL CABINET MEETING OF AUGUST 6. THE SPECIAL CABINET MEETING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED ALSO TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH HANOI (SEE SEPTTEL). KON SAID THAT THANOM'S RETURN WAS BEING HOTLY DEBATED IN THE CABINET MEETING WHICH HE HAD JUST LEFT. HE SAID THAT THANOM HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO RETURN TO THAILAND NEXT WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, BUT NOW THE MATTER HAD BEEN TAKEN UP BY THE CABINET FOR RECONSIDERATION. HE DID NOT SAY WHO ORIGINALLY GAVE THE PERMISSION, NOR WHEN IT WAS GRANTED ALTHOUGH HE DID SAY HE HOPED THANOM WOULD BE ALLOWED TO COME BACK.

2. KNO ALSO MENTIONED THAT STUDENTS AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY WERE PREPARING TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THANOM'S RETURN. IF THANOM IS PERMITTED TO RETURN, KON BELIEVES THAT THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE, WHICH MAY LEAD TO A CABINET RESHUFFLE AND PERHAPS EVEN THE REMOVAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER. KON WAS NOT UNHAPPY AT THIS

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PROSPECT.

3. COMMENT: IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE CABINET WILL ALLOW THANOM TO RETURN TO THAILAND AT THIS TIME. HIS RETURN WOULD CAUSE UNREST AMONG THE STUDENTS AND OTHER ANTI-DICTATORSHIP GROUPS, SOMETHING WHICH THIS GOVERNMENT CAN DO WITHOUT. SEVERAL DEMOCRATS HAVE ALREADY STRONGLY OPPOSED IN PUBLIC THANOM'S RETURN.

4. KON'S ATTITUDE PROBABLY REFLECTS THAT OF HIS UNCLE AND MG PRAMAN ADIREKSAN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. NEITHER ARE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. BOTH ARE AMBITIOUS OPPORTUNISTS WHO HOPE TO BE PRIME MINISTER, LEGALLY THROUGH THE ELECTORAL PROCESS OR IN THE AFTERMATH OF A COUP. WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 AUG 1976  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, TH, (THANOM KITTIKACHON)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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